

# **Regular Meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee**

**Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 6:00 PM**

**Jenks/JMW Complex for the Performing and Visual Arts Media Center**

**350 Division Street, Pawtucket RI 02860**

## **Minutes**

**I Meeting will come to order**

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM**

**a Roll call**

**Ms. Bonollo-here; Ms. Cano-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here; Mr. Araujo-here**

**Also in attendance were Mrs. Patricia DiCenso, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Lee Rabbitt, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Kathleen Suriani,**

**Elementary School Performance Officer, Ms. Melissa Devine, Chief Financial Officer and Mr. Jon Anderson, Legal Counsel for the Pawtucket**

**School Committee.**

**Mr. Coughlin was not in attendance.**

**b Pledge of Allegiance**

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**II Celebration /Recognition**

**None**

**III Special Reports of Student Representatives**

**Charles E. Shea High School**

**None**

**William E. Tolman High School**

**A Senior Student from Tolman informed the Committee and audience that the Tolman Staff participated in a dress down day which was a challenge**

**by Dr. Ash, Principal at Slater Junior High School and raised \$275.00 that was given to the Geraghty Family.**

**The PSAT's were going to be given to all juniors tomorrow and the Boys' Cross Country finished with an 8-2 record and qualified for the**

**States for  
the first time in a long time.**

**Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing and Visual  
Arts**

**A Senior Student from JMW informed the Committee and audience  
that they have been meeting to prepare for the Carnival Carnage to be  
held  
October 22-23 at JMW.**

**JMW would be administering the PSAT's.**

**The Travel Club has been meeting to prepare for their trip to Europe.  
The Senior Class went to see Hamlet.**

**A flu clinic has been scheduled.**

**On November 3, 2014, JMW will be hosting an Open House from 6:00  
PM to 8:00 PM and everyone is welcome.**

#### **IV Public Participation**

**Comments from the public are invited at this time. Citizens  
wishing to speak should sign in with the Committee Chair before  
speaking. The Committee is precluded from discussing or acting on  
items raised by Public Comment, which are not already on the**

**agenda. Public comment will be included in the minutes of the meeting.**

**Mr. Joseph Knight: Very simply I would like if you would have the elected School Committee Members attend the last two meetings of this year. I ask that all paperwork, agendas and pertinent items be forwarded at that time. We will have five new members and also have them go to executive session in December so they know what's going on.**

## **V Executive Session**

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, commented that the Committee would recess to executive session in accordance with provisions under Title 42, Chapter 46, Subsection 5 (a) (1) (job performance, physical and mental health) (2) (legal advice and litigation/collective bargaining) of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island for the purpose of discussing and/or acting upon the following:**

- 1. Approval of Superintendent of Schools Permanent Contract**
- 2. Seal Executive Session Minutes**

**Mr. Tenreiro moved to recess to executive session. Ms. Nordquist seconded.**

## **Roll call**

**Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Cano-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes;  
Mr. Tenreiro-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes**

**Motion carries unanimously with six members present.**

**The Committee recessed to executive session at 6:21 PM to 6:40 PM.**

## **VI Reconvene to open session**

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, reconvened the open session at 6:47 PM.**

### **a. Roll call**

**Ms. Bonollo-here; Ms. Cano-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr.  
Spooner-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here; Mr. Araujo-here**

## **VII Report out vote(s) of executive session of 10/14/14, if applicable**

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, asked the clerk if there were any votes to  
report out.**

**The clerk reported that the Committee voted unanimously to seal the**

**executive session minutes and to adjourn the executive session with six members present.**

## **VIII Approval of previous meeting minutes**

**Mr. Tenreiro moved to approve and accept the minutes of the September 10, 2014 meeting. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Voice vote carries with six members present.**

## **IX Old Business**

### **1. Food Service Provider Update**

**Mrs. DiCenso: Mr. Henneous has been in constant contact with the tax legal firm. I had hoped to have a response fast enough for a special meeting prior to tonight. They have not reached a final conclusion. We turned to the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) and they have allowed another extension to November 20th.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: I have questions. Is there somewhere we can send the questions to? Can we email them?**

**The Chairman asked Mr. Anderson if that was okay.**

**Mr. Anderson: Yes.**

**Mr. Tenreiro:** We received a letter and we were never able to talk to RIDE. How did we fail to follow that process? At the time, it was a political thing for those running again.

**Mr. Araujo:** I want to be as transparent as possible and clear it with legal.

## **X Action Items**

### **1 Approval of Superintendent of Schools Permanent Contract**

**Mr. Araujo:** As you know, the School Committee entered into a three year tentative agreement with Mrs. DiCenso in July. Tonight we would like to approve a permanent three year contract for Mrs. DiCenso.

**Ms. Nordquist** moved to approve the Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Patricia DiCenso, with a permanent three year contract. **Mr. Tenreiro** seconded.

**Ms. Nordquist:** I want to thank Patti for coming on board with a tentative contract. I want to thank you for all your hard work.

**Mr. Spooner:** I want to thank Ms. Nordquist for chairing the

**Superintendent Search Subcommittee. That was one of the best subcommittees I have ever been on. I really enjoyed working with everyone on it. It is a pleasure to have you on board. Congratulations.**

**Mr. Araujo: I just want to say for everything you took on and without taking anything more, you did a tremendous job. Thank you.**

**Roll call**

**Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Cano-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-with pleasure, yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes**

**Motion carries unanimously with six members present.**

**Mr. Spooner requested to take the next three items together if there is no objection. With no objection, the following items were presented for approval.**

**2 Approval of Certified Appointments**

**3 Approval of Certified Coaching Appointments**

**4 Approval of Non Certified Appointment**

**Mrs. DiCenso: Tonight we have the following appointments for your approval:**

**Certified Appointments**

**Grade 6/ESL – Goff Jr. High School**

**Nicole Nolin, 28 Amherst Avenue, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860**

**Step 4**

**Applied and received ESL Emergency Certification**

**School Occupational Therapist – District (Fallon, Greene, Varieur)**

**Beth Abraham, 67 Sheffield Avenue, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860**

**Step 1 w/Masters**

**School Nurse Teacher – Baldwin Elementary**

**Michelle Lamothe, 2 Medinah Drive, West Warwick, Rhode Island  
02893**

**Step 10**

**Art Teacher – Fallon School (1 yr. position)**

**Melissa Taurisano, 157 Reservoir Avenue, #1, Providence, Rhode  
Island 02907**

**Step 10**

**Grade 1 Teacher – Varieur Elementary**

**Samantha McBurney, 5 Nancy Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860**

## **Step 2 w/masters**

**Sp. Ed. Grades 2 & 3 Teacher – Curvin-McCabe Elementary**

**Elizabeth McLellan, 34 Lake Drive, North Kingstown, Rhode Island  
02852**

## **Step 4**

### **Coaches Appointments**

**Assistant Freshman Football Coach – Tolman High School**

**Peter Gray, 514 Cottage Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02861**

**Assistant Boys' Soccer Coach – Tolman High School**

**Eric Andrade, 38 Rabbit Hill Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island 02864**

### **Non-certified Appointment**

**Sp. Ed. Building Assistant/Instructional Assistant/Personal Care  
Attendant - Curvin-McCabe Elementary**

**Jennifer R. Saccoccio, 255 Thurber Avenue, Attleboro, Massachusetts  
02703**

**Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the Certified Teacher, Coaches and  
Non-Certified appointments as recommended by the Superintendent,  
Mrs. DiCenso. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Ms. Cano: They all get the same amount approved in the budget?**

**Mrs. DiCenso: Yes, they are in the budget.**

**Voice vote carries unanimously with six members present.**

## **5 Approval of Common Core State Standards Aligned Elementary Report Cards**

**Mrs. DiCenso: I'd like to call Kathy Suriani to the podium to quickly explain why we need to vote on this.**

**Ms. Suriani: Good evening. We have had standard based report cards and in the last few years we have aligned our curriculum to Common Core Standards. In the last year, our Curriculum Department spent a lot of time with teachers to report to parents what their children are learning in schools.**

**Last night I was with parents who provided good feedback that we added.**

**We are looking for your approval to use this in November.**

**Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the Common Core State Standards Aligned Elementary Report Cards. Mr. Tenreiro seconded.**

**Mr. Tenreiro:** Someone used a good attempt to clarify for the parents. Under Science, it talks about reading and writing literally. Is it a contract guide or a literal score?

**Ms. Suriani:** Science standards are constantly changing. We will be coming back with revisions in Science. There is a combination of skills with concept and how it is used in literacy and reading.

We currently have a small group of teachers working on that and will be rolling that out soon.

**Mr. Tenreiro:** Let's say my child is in the third grade and my child doesn't meet the concept and content and here it talks about the student conducting evaluations. If misalignment is here, there must be with the teacher. Is it multiple choice? Let's change the guide, but consider the skills services also with Science and Social Studies.

**Ms. Suriani:** We can certainly do that. The researching comes in the writing part and we can come back with writing parts.

**Mr. Tenreiro:** The easiest solution might be the evaluation part.

**Ms. Suriani:** We will have to make sure it's very clear to them.

**Mr. Araujo:** There has been a motion and it has been seconded with changes down the road.

**Ms. Suriani:** I think you need to vote on the report cards and the explanation can be provided.

**Mr. Tenreiro:** How are students doing instruction? Approve the report card and say it's in transition?

**Ms. Suriani:** Science is in transition and that will be explained.

**Ms. Nordquist:** When are you meeting with parents?

**Ms. Suriani:** Before the first report cards go out.

**Ms. Nordquist:** I remember the last time there were many questions.

**Ms. Suriani:** I do not think this will look as different to parents, but do think they will have a lot of questions.

**Ms. Cano:** We are already using tools for progress and they are about to change?

**Ms. Suriani:** At the high schools.

**Ms. Cano:** We should have translators at the schools for the parents who speak Portuguese and Spanish and we can utilize the head phones and interpreters for the parents.

**Ms. Bonollo:** As Alan was saying do you have a final timeline so our teachers know what they are supposed to be teaching and know what they're teaching?

**Mrs. DiCenso:** The teachers already know what the Common Core Standards are. Mr. Tenreiro brought up about the Science standards being used at the elementary level.

When Mrs. Cylke was here, we received a grant and the Math Coordinator has been working on those things with the teachers. We need to look at the curriculum environment. We are looking at putting processes in place. We need to look at how the districts are planning especially grades one through five in math and science.

**Ms. Bonollo:** Alan said report cards and curriculum are not in line. When will this be fixed so that people can interpret?

**Ms. Suriani:** When you look at the guide we can be more specific as to how grades can be reported. Teachers do conduct research reading and writing. We can look to see where to put it in the report card.

A lot is inquiry and research based because they do use kits.

We will have discussions and meetings on this and that information

**will go out. We'll have to do it within the next few weeks.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: We can hold a special meeting to conduct this or approve the report card side and Kathy can do a presentation for a guide side.**

**Mr. Spooner: This has nothing to do with Administration and teachers, but my nephews recently stayed with me and I watched as they did their homework. My nephews had calculators to do division because the teachers do not want to see the work. The teachers don't want the students to waste paper. This is beautiful and elegant, but this is the sort of thing that drives me nuts. All these concepts of addition, subtraction, long division and fractions do not matter as long as they get the answer. It doesn't matter how they get it, just that they get it. It's time to go backwards in this.**

**Mr. Araujo: Is this on our website so parents can see it?**

**Ms. Suriani: Yes.**

**Roll call**

**Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Cano-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes**

**Motion carries unanimously with six members present.**

## **6 Appointment of Access to Public Records Act Contact**

**Mrs. DiCenso: This was based on a legal recommendation that we change the contact person and I am recommending the Access to Public Records**

**contact person to be my Administrative Assistant, Ms. Tereza Pereira.**

**Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the appointment of Ms. Tereza Pereira as the Access to Public Records Act Contact. Ms. Bonollo seconded.**

**Voice vote carries unanimously with six members present.**

## **XI Presentation/Discussion Items**

### **1. Charter School Forecast 2014-2015**

**Mrs. DiCenso: The Mayoral Academy increased their enrollment by 90 students which has increased the enrollment to 350 and are increasing the pool to Providence and Central Falls as well.**

**Please note the estimates are different and greater this year. Melissa Devine is really questioning attendance. We are contesting \$1,702, an equivalent of \$48,000 from the Rhode Island Nurses Institute.**

**Ms. Devine: We received the first tuition bill for the nursing students**

**and there was a 12+ and it is also being fought out by other districts.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: It dips down in the fourth quarter.**

**Mr. Araujo: The cost of any increase would cost \$2,720.00 to this district?**

**Mrs. DiCenso: Yes. If you have any questions, please email me. Yes, they are increasing to 95 students which includes Providence.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: I think some is about the inequity in each community. I wonder if we could see percentage increase in the charter and public school district.**

**Ms. Devine: There is a list on the RIDE website, but Pawtucket is relatively low.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: How much is the increase for students to stay in public schools?**

**Ms. Devine: It's gone up about \$50.00.**

**If spending the same amount of money in budget, the percentage will be a lot lower and it's less costly to pay to go to charter.**

**If they are not in-district students, it's a 100% increase and the per**

**pupil cost is \$12,900.00, for a charter school student it is \$2,790.00.**

**Ms. Bonollo: What is the current enrollment?**

**Ms. Devine: I think it's about 8,900.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: It's 9,140.**

**Ms. Devine: Well Hersh is not here tonight and he would be the one to provide us with that information.**

**Ms. Bonollo: Do we have room for them all?**

**Mrs. DiCenso: No.**

**Ms. Bonollo: Where do we put them?**

**Mrs. DiCenso: I wonder why they are leaving. I think we should be more competitive but I understand they have a choice.**

## **2. Monthly Vendor Expense Report**

**Ms. Devine: September shows \$257,571.14. This is the checks issued in the month of September including all sources and vendors including bond monies.**

**Ms. Bonollo: Do we still have a balanced budget?**

**Ms. Devine: Yes we are working together with the Superintendent as a result of the out of district placements. We're in a good place right now. I think it would be advantageous to get another approval from you.**

## **XII Superintendent's Report**

**Mrs. DiCenso: I want to thank the Administrators and especially the custodial team for increasing their efforts at the schools during this season and I want to thank the support of the teachers. Melissa and I are working on the budget such as electricity and making adjustments as we go forward.**

**We have a very good curriculum for math and science in elementary and we also need to focus on technology as we head to get the kids PAARC ready.**

## **XIII Special Report of School Committee Members**

**Ms. Bonollo: The Wellness Committee had a meeting last week. The Committee will meet every other month and will have a subcommittee who can focus on the wellness policy. Also get ready for a spring project for families also the Backpackers.**

I will put a packet together and get it to the teachers. It was a good meeting and very well attended. The Warm Heart Coat Collection is coming up. We see an increase in people who show up every year and it is huge. So if you have any gently worn coats, hats, mittens, gloves and clothing that will keep some of our families warm this winter, please remember to donate. Thank you.

Ms. Cano: I want to give you some information for the third annual conference called “Mapping for Success, Are You Ready?” It’s a one day workshop for students and parents. It’s a collaborative process with parents and administrators to concentrate on one goal which is college education. It is important to register. A scholarship will be awarded to one student. Also it’s good for parents to show students how to apply for college.

September was a great month for Pawtucket. It’s great to mention that we have a great team of administrators, teachers and parents.

I participated with the Potter-Burns Open House and was asked why Skyward is only in English.

On September 30th part of the motivational speakers was Mike Connelly. He told the students they need to dream big and he gave students his twitter address and saw remarks from parents. It’s important to continue to have these types of events.

**I want to say to the Superintendent, thank you.**

**Ms. Nordquist: Have a good night.**

**Mr. Spooner: I have a lot to say, no I'm only kidding. Have a good night.**

**Mr. Tenreiro: Nothing.**

**Mr. Araujo: I want to thank Mrs. DiCenso on getting the word out on this bond. There is a meeting Thursday at Jenks. Thank you.**

**Mrs. DiCenso: We will be having one each week before the election.**

#### **XIV Adjournment**

**Mr. Tenreiro moved to adjourn. Mr. Spooner seconded.**

**Voice vote carries unanimously with six members present.**

**The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, adjourned the regular meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 7:39 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Clerk**

**Approved by School Committee 11/12/14**